

"Building Our Sense of Community"

Shelton State Courier

Campus Newspaper

New Series Vol. 2, Number 4

Shelton State Community College March 12, 1998-March 26, 1998

Shelton State administrator doubles as TV anchorman



Every weekday afternoon Philip Coleman races the couple of miles from Shelton State to the News-49 studio on Jug Factory Road in order to anchor the nightly news with Lori Johnston Photo by Blake Mann

By Nicole Barker

"Seventy-eight years old and still no sign of hair," local TV news anchorman Philip Coleman, also an administrator at Shelton State Community College, is jokingly running a sound check on his microphone.

It's another busy day at

the Channel 49 News Station. People are milling around, and getting their papers in order. A cameraman yells "Standby," and the room becomes quiet. Philip Coleman is given his cue to begin.

A native of Tuscaloosa, Coleman is no stranger to broadcast journalism. In 1978, only two days after graduating from the University

with a degree in Broadcast, Film, and Communication (BFC) he began his career as a reporter, anchor, and talk-show host for WTBC AM and WUOA FM radio in Tuscaloosa. In 1980, he was

Coleman cont'd on pg. 3

Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else
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Future Issues

The Courier looks forward to 7 more issues during the spring and summer semesters: late March, early April, late April, May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278.

Schools and churches served as the hubs of life in area

Fourth in a Multiple-Part Series About the Environs of the College

By James A. Crawford II

"Kids today don't know what it's like not to have anything to do but work in the field. School was a break from those fields. Rain or shine, we were there every day and happy about being there," states 84-year-old George Bush, a lifetime resident of Taylorville.

One of the most overlooked and little-understood aspects of the history of any community in the South is the effect its early schools had on its growth.

In these early days the only means the black community could get a foothold with was through education.

The first known school in

the area was located on the site of the present day Little Sandy Baptist Church. At the back of the church, you can still see the original building. The church section was added next to the old one-room school and was established as a ministry in 1836. The school was taught by volunteers and taught all ages basic reading skills.

A one-room elementary school was established on what is now the P.L. Spiller homestead and out of this grew the Big Sandy Elementary school on the south end of Old Greensboro Road and on northern end of the road was Taylorville Elementary.

At this time segregation was a common practice and schools for black students such as Frierson and Taylorville Junior High were established.

Schools Cont'd on pg. 2



Little Sandy Baptist Church served as the first unofficial schoolhouse in Taylorville
Photo by Blake Mann



Shelton President honored for his effort The American Association of University Administrators recently cited President Tom Umphrey for his success in building the new Shelton campus in an era of downsizing and cutbacks. He was named the group's administrator of the year.

Editorial Page

My Best Friend—To the End

The sound of monitors was all that could be heard. The room was bright, but yet so dark. I watched one nurse take his temperature while another checked his vitals. Shrugging their shoulders they walked out of the room.

Now alone in the room, I sat beside him, my best friend, my other self. "If only I would have stayed with him that night... I could have driven."

I said my good-byes. His family had already decided to take him off the machines.

"He has suffered long enough and so have we," his mother told me right before she gave the doctor the okay.

It is absolutely horrifying knowing that someone you love is standing at death's corner. The things that go through your head. Things you want to say but can't. Things you wish you could change.

His family walked into the room followed by the doctor. With one swift move of the doctor's hand, silence. Roger drew his last breath.

His BAC (blood alcohol content) was .30% when he was driving home. No one knows exactly what happened

that night. I do. He was so drunk he could not even function. And someone let him—my best friend—drive.

Do you realize the average BAC among fatally injured drunk drivers is .17%. That is over twice the legal limit of .08%.

Scary statistic? Yes it is. Especially when you consider that out of all the fatal traffic accidents drunk drivers account for 20%. Over half of the 20% tend to be male—aged 25-35.

Being a college student myself I have done my share of driving drunk. It only seemed natural. Let someone drive me home? That is too much of a hassle. Spend money on a taxi? No way. Besides, if I am out at a bar I have probably spent all my money on beer.

I am not trying to preach to any one. I don't have the right. I am simply telling you a story in hopes that it makes someone a little wiser. I know I am.

Losing my best friend was the worst thing that has happened to me yet.

Losing him to drinking was the most sobering thing that has ever happened to me.

—Kimberly Davis

The Bell Poll By: Louis Bell

Courier pollster Louis Bell surveyed 50 students about college-age drinking. Five questions were asked. First, students were asked how often they drink. Many students responded that they drink once a week (30%). Secondly, students were asked how often they get drunk. A great deal of the interviewed students said that they get drunk once a week (30%). Next, students were asked if they think there is a problem with college-age drinking in this country.

How often do students drink?
30% - once a week
18% - three times a week
18% - do not drink
8% - twice a week

How often do you get drunk?
34% - Never
30% - Once a week
12% - Twice a week
10% - Once a month

Do you think there is a problem with college age drinking in this country?
58% - Yes
34% - No
8% - No comment

Do you think there is a problem with college age drinking in this city?
60% - Yes
34% - No
6% - No comment

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Schools Con'd. from pg.1

Shortly thereafter when Elias Payne, thought to be the area's first settler, moved to what is now known as the Taylorville area, he had traveled to Alabama with as many as ten slaves who all were devoted to him.

This first group of slaves were some of the founding fathers of the modern day community. They helped to establish the fields for farming and built lodgings beyond what was expected of them.

In the beginning days, slavery was still dominant in the South and blacks were rarely afforded a role in anything beyond work in the fields.

After slavery was abolished, communities nationwide started to grow in terms of acceptance. Blacks could now find opportunities they had previously been denied. These opportunities didn't come easy by any means and shouldn't be forgotten.

The earliest, if not the only, black-owned business in Taylorville was a little soda shop owned by a businessman named Luthor Davis called Davis Country Beverages. It was a small one-room store that consisted of only bricks and two wooden doors.

Donnie Hinton, affectionately referred to as D.C., recalls, "The little store sold ice cream, sodas and candy and was the only black-owned store I can remember going to."

The store served as the heart of the black community in Taylorville in the 1950s and '60s.

What is left of the old block building is falling apart but is a symbolic reminder of the early foun-

dations of the black communities presence in Taylorville and how far it has come in the last several decades.

In the 1950s the civil rights movement had not yet taken hold on Taylorville. Black students were still being taught at the all-black Taylorville Junior High. The building has long since been torn down but was once located behind Davis Country Beverages.

The school taught students up to seventh grade, after which

play basketball in during the winter.

"In those days we had only heard of football, and we just barely knew of basketball, but we were eager to learn and it was fun," recalls Hinton.

During the summer, the youth in Taylorville played baseball in community-formed teams.

The white teams played in a field behind where Taylorville Baptist now stands. The black teams—referred to as the Taylorville White



Davis Country Beverages, the remains of which can still be seen today, was the first black-owned business in Taylorville | Photo by Blake Mann

they were bussed to other area schools such as Riverside in the Northport area.

Sox—played on Snider Bottoms, a field owned by the Snider family.

The black players competed against teams from Moundville, Northport, Akron, Fayette, and other surrounding areas.

Hinton says, "We played for fun back then. It was more a community team than a black team. We never thought of it as that way; we had pride in our efforts and the concept of trophies and money

Schools cont. on pg.3

College-Age Drinking

Most of the students stated that there is a problem (58%). Students were also asked if they think there is a problem with college age drinking in this city. The majority of the students answered that there is a problem (60%). Finally, the students who thought drinking was a problem were asked how severe the problem is. A number of students replied that the problem is severe (30%).

Shelton State Courier
Editor: James A. Crawford II
News Editor: Kimberly Davis

Staff Writers: Chris Bailey, and members of the MCM 130 class

Publisher: Dr. Jim Kenny
Assistant to the Publisher: Chris Bailey
Advertising Assistant: Jeni Adams
Production Assistants: Ashley Arthur and Julie Massengale

The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students. It is intended as a vehicle for student expression and

all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper: "The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

Schools, cont'd from pg. 2

didn't mean anything to us; it was strictly for the thrill and spirit of the game.

The first coach of the Taylorville White Sox was Luthor Davis, the soda shop owner, but the team had help from many community members, including Winston Way, who worked hard to get baseballs, bats, and other needed items for the team.

He also arranged to pick up students who didn't have means to get to the games.

"Mr. Way was a real nice fellow. He had no reason to help up out other than he wanted to and he enjoyed watching us play," recalls Hinton.

One of the first non-resident contributors to the team was local business man Ben Harrison, one of the former Harco owners.

"When my boys were young, the team they played for was break-

ing up, and D.C. needed some players. At the time I never gave it any thought that we were desegregating the sport. I just knew that D.C. was a heck of a coach and a nice guy and my boys wanted to play," recalls Harrison.

The baseball teams served as a recreational outlet for the community and helped foster a sense of unity. After each game and sometimes during, tables with food, drinks and cakes were set up for everyone to partake of.

"It was really like a great big party after each game," adds Harrison.

The schools, even though from humble beginnings, sent students on to higher education and various local trade schools.

Local black residents are proud that more than 90 percent of those original students went on to own land, obtain good jobs, and own businesses all over Tuscaloosa

and beyond, despite enormous pressures at every turn.

According to Hinton, one of the most prominent students from the early days was Elijah Carter, who went on to be a renowned physician; he now resides and maintains a practice in California.

In the '60s The Civil Rights Movement had finally come to Taylorville, but it found that most residents already agreed and favored equal rights for all residents and were waiting for someone to take the lead and straighten the system out.

Despite these good relations, there were still some wrongful deeds, such as the thwarting of an attempt to integrate the Sunday morning domino games at Gas Island.

A Rock-Cola music machine was placed at the back of the store while the white adults still played up front near the door.

"It was a real nice jukebox, and I'm sure they meant well, but the fact that it was in the back of a room bothered a lot of us folks and we never saw fit to sit around down there much. Other than that, everyone always got along fine. We never much thought about it other than what we heard. It was nice place to grow up," says Hinton.

Most of the entertainment in those days was home-spun and individually creative.

"I remember when I was a teenager, we'd go around house to house, on Saturday nights mostly, and play guitars and sing.

"To make money on the side we would bring along some 'home-brew,' the poor man's version of moonshine, to sell to the folks.

"We'd sit for hours and just enjoy each other's company," remembers Bush.

It was this friendly sense of atmosphere that Taylorville grew on

and still serves as its guiding principle today.

With the recent industrial growth, Taylorville is no longer the tight-knit community it once was, but it still possesses a small-town atmosphere, which has allowed it to continue to grow in population from the earliest days of Alabama to the present.



St. Paul's AME is said to be Taylorville's oldest church with a predominantly African-American congregation
Photo by Blake Mann

Coleman cont'd from pg. 1

picked up by KOB-TV Channel 4, an NBC affiliate in Albuquerque, N.M., as a reporter and early morning anchor. Coleman smiles as he describes this particular job, "You know the guy the *Today Show* cuts back to for local news updates? —I was that guy."

In 1983, Coleman accepted a job as a general assignment reporter for WKRG-TV Channel 5, the CBS affiliate in Mobile, Ala. His father was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer in 1986, and Coleman returned to Tuscaloosa to help care for him. Unfortunately, he passed away a year and a half later.

During this time, he took a job with WCFT-TV, Channel 33 in Tuscaloosa, as a way to stay in practice with TV reporting. He ended up working at Channel 33 for nine years. Coleman hadn't planned on staying that long, to which he explains the old expression, "Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans."

While he was with Channel 33, the "crazy stuff," as he describes it, began with the plans to move to Birmingham, and Coleman wasn't sure what direction things were moving in, so he decided to, "just get out of the business."

In November of 1995, he came to Shelton State as Director of Cooperative Education, which involves finding work for students that relate to their interests. Coleman enjoys this responsibility and says,

"I find it very rewarding to help young people get a start in

their careers."

In 1997, Shelton State vice-president, Dr. Ted Spring, asked Coleman to head up the new Adult Recruitment effort at Shelton State as well. As of now, his official title is Director of Adult Recruitment

and Cooperative Education.

In the midst of all this, Coleman received a surprise phone call from a former Channel 33 co-worker named Ronnie Quarles, who told him about the new TV station, Channel 49, and wanted him to be

a part of it.

Quarles is the General Manager of News Channel 49, which he started up with the help of a few investors six months after Channel 33 relocated to Birmingham. That station covered the area from

Anniston to Tuscaloosa, and under the direction of the new owners, decided to move to Birmingham to be in the middle of the two areas.

Coleman cont'd on pg. 6

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**Astrologer Madam Sosostros Presents a Special Two-Week
Horoscope Exclusively for Shelton State Students**

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Everything good about your personality is magnified now. Don't change a thing. Just bask in the limelight. Your studies should not be neglected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Friends seek you out with their problems. Be supportive, but be ready to suggest professional help if you see signs of instability. Remember you don't have a degree in psychology.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The Sun, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter are all in your work house. It's going to be easy to let it become all encompassing. Take a break and relax a little. This should get easier as the month progresses, especially after you get that big paper or test under your belt.

CANCER (June 22-July 23) A door opens for you around the 13th. It could be the great career opportunity of your life. Your diligence may finally be paying off. Don't ignore it, because it may not be there for long.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23) This may be the time to spice up your romance. Make that move you have been considering. It's to your advantage and Leos are always looking for the advantages.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It's your turn to jump in with both feet. Decide what you want and make a commitment. It can't do anything but help, and you may find it to be a total turn-on. March 12 should be a luck day for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You are the ideal host/hostess this month. It's a great time to throw a big blow-out or give an intimate dinner party. Either way, you can't go wrong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Don't look now, but a big adjustment is right around the corner. It may be romance or career, but it should be for the better. Proceed with caution if you must, but **PROCEED!**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 24-Dec. 21) You've heard the old adage "only fools rush in..."? If you don't slow down, and take a deep breath, this could be you. Watch your step.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your attention is on romance, but don't forget that old pal who is feeling neglected. Make some time for him or her. A phone call is better than nothing, but a night out on the town is really what he/she needs.

You can find the time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) With spring in the air, your thoughts turn to love. You have a tendency to fantasize too much and then you are somewhat disappointed in the real thing. Don't let that spring fever take over your whole existence though. School comes first!

PISCES (Feb. 19- March 20) Don't let that wandering spirit get you in trouble. Settle down and enjoy what you have. You really can't do better. The semester is about half over and you need to concentrate on that grade point average.

Ask Dennis



Q: Dear Dennis:

I have read and heard so much about when to fertilize my lawn in the springtime that I am thoroughly confused. Can you tell me when is the best time to fertilize my turfgrass?

—T. Fowler

A: Dear T.

I can understand your confusion since many of the articles you might consult in order to figure this out are published in the Northeast and refer to cool-season grasses or grasses that make maximum growth between 65-80 degrees F.

The grasses that we grow in the South are called temperate or warm season, which make maximum growth between 80-95 degrees F.

The recommendation for these are usually opposite that of

cold season grasses, so watch the source of your article before implementing recommendations.

The best time to fertilize our grasses is after the last killing frost has passed. This is difficult to determine sometimes. However, the average frost is around April 15, so this is when I would fertilize for the first time.

I would also add that the first fertilization should be 1 and 1/2 times the normal rate. This gives the turf an extra jump start in the spring and helps it to green-up quicker and start producing food through photosynthesis as soon as possible.

The normal rate of fertilizing is with one pound of nitrogen per 100 square feet. You can determine how much fertilizer you should apply by dividing the first number of the fertilizer into 100.

For example, with a 27-3-5 fertilizer divide 100 by 27 which is 3.7. So you should apply 3.7 pounds

of 27-3-5 per 100 square feet of lawn.

Suppose your lawn is 50 feet wide and 100 feet long. Then you would use 3.7 times 5 (20x100=5000 square feet) or 18.5 pounds of total fertilizer. Now 1 and 1/2 times 18.5 would be 27.75 pounds per square feet.

Remember always, though, that you live in the South. Don't let some chilly ol' Yankee tell you what to do with your lawn!

Submit your questions to "Ask Dennis" at the Shelton State Courier.

*Dennis Crim, instructor of landscape operation management, will select the question which seems to have the most universal appeal to answer in his column. **

What are your views about college-age drinking?

Interviewed by: Jo Jobson

Photos by: Blake Mann



**Rex Toten, Freshman
Tuscaloosa**

"I feel that there is a major problem with college students drinking today. I also think there should be programs for problem drinkers."



**Michael McComb,
Freshman, Northport**

"One of the necessities of college life is drinking. Many people use drinking in social ways. As long as you do not abuse alcohol, it is all right."



**Regina Anderson, Sophomore
Sawyerville**

"Well, I think we shouldn't have any college drinking, but everyone has their own opinion. I personally think it should be cut out completely."



**Hannah Rasberry,
Freshman, Tuscaloosa**

"If you can still succeed in college, I think it's o.k., but not as an every weekend thing."



**Clarke Drummond,
Freshman, Northport**

"I think drinking is a big part of a normal college curriculum. Drinking drastically raises the average student's GPA."



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Music Department lives up to Shelton's designation as College for the Fine Arts

By Nadia Al-Harbi

Being the top-rated fine arts junior college in the state is not an easy position, as several Shelton



Kevin Payne took high honors in Mobile and is headed to Samford on a scholarship

State students recently discovered.

On Feb. 20 and 21, 14 voice students under the direction of Glinda Blackshear and Mark Brown traveled to the University of South Alabama in Mobile to compete in an event sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

The trip to Mobile proved trying itself. Phillip Barker and some others found themselves over the

Mississippi line. It took several attempts to get back on the right highway. Finally they overcame their navigational misfortune.

The wake-up calls the next morning began as early as 5:30 a.m.—not an hour compatible to college students' physiology.

From 200 participant, 26 categories and two long days of competition, two of Shelton State's finest progressed to the finals.

In classical voice, sophomore Breonte Guy, a Blackshear student, brought home the first place award.

Kevin Payne, another Blackshear student, took third place in upper level men's musical theater.

Kevin Payne has recently been recognized by Samford University as an outstanding voice student. Out of 45 auditioners, Payne received the highest vocal scholarship offered. He will be performing his recital on March 24 in the Shelton Recital Hall at 1 p.m. He will be singing arias, art songs, contemporary Christian and musical numbers.

Blackshear has been involved with NATS and Shelton

State for 12 years, and says she enjoys taking her students to this competition. "It allows our students to hear upperclassmen who sing well, and also lets our students see that they are being prepared at the same level as the four-year students. We are the only two-year



Music instructors Glinda Blackshear (L) and Syble Coats prepare to depart for Mobile

college involved and have always had finalists and winners.

The fact that they are the only two-year college that participates in this tough competition—and that they have always placed well—underscores the validity of Shelton's new title as the Fine Arts Junior College of Alabama.

Photos by Nadia Al Harbi

Coleman con't from pg. 3

Coleman's reputation as a professional prompted Quarles to give him a call. "He's as good as it gets," says Quarles, describing Coleman as an anchorman and employee. He offered Coleman the positions of 5:30 anchor, and 6:30 talk show host. After briefly thinking it over, Coleman accepted the positions. Spring, his Shelton supervisor, agreed with the decision. "Philip has a love for media, and if he has time outside of his job at Shelton, great!"

As for News Channel 49, Quarles says he is pleased with the progress of the station, and eventually he would like to see Channel 49 expand to cover all of West Alabama, while staying based in Tuscaloosa.

Rebekah Caldwell, the News Director and one of the anchors at Channel 49, was also involved in hiring Coleman. As for the reasons Coleman was contacted, she said, "His reputation speaks for itself; he is well respected, well liked, and well known, especially after being with Channel 33 for so long. Philip is also smooth and calm, which is rare in this business. He's a good person to work with."

Before the 5:30 show, you can find Philip and Lori Johnston,

his co-anchor, sitting side by side, checking their appearances in a mirror, which, Lori is quick to point out, belongs to Philip. The two read through their scripts, pronouncing certain words over and over again to make sure they can say them correctly when the time comes. Lori was pronouncing "Luciano Pavarotti," and Philip, along with the cameramen, voice their own versions of the name. The cameraman yells "standby," and the news begins.

Johnston enjoys working with him, but says there is a different side to him that the public doesn't see. She explained, "Most people see him as the stern newsman, but behind the scenes, he's always cracking me up, it's great!"

Apparently, Coleman has established quite a reputation for himself. Even the technical staff enjoy working with him. Cameraman Joe Gehrdes remarked, "He's one of the easiest people to work with; I've never even seen him get angry."

This job is different from any of Coleman's other jobs. Because he is at Shelton from 8 to 5, he doesn't do any of the actual reporting for his stories. At 5 he rushes to the station, receives his script, goes over it a few times, and then deliv-

Coleman cont'd on pg. 11



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Captive Audience

Dr. Britt Turner recently participated in Buddy Day at the Child Development Center. March 2 was also Read America Day as well as Dr. Seuss's birthday. Turner had a multitude of reasons to see if he could captivate an audience—and with a little help from the Center's staff, he managed to keep the toddlers in his charge riveted.

The Most Violent Soap Opera on TV

WCW, WWF, NWO, Thunder, Nitro, Powerbomb, Diamond Cutter, Stunner. What do all these "words" have in common?

They all pertain to one of the oldest sports—that has reached a new height of popularity with a new generation: Wrestling.

Perhaps you remember Hulk Hogan and other wrestling legends like Andre the Giant and Jake the Snake, but now people tune in to watch Sting, Stone Cold Steve Austin, and the new and improved "Hollywood Hulk Hogan."

Just about every night of the week people make a point to watch this soap opera. The NWO (the bad

Tia & Tara's World of Wrastlin'

guys) are always picking on some member of WCW; Stone Cold's bad self is always kickin' the butts of fellow WWF members. These are the type of spectacles that entertain hundreds of thousands of college-age kids at their Nitro Parties and Pay-Per-View Bashes.

Undeniably, the biggest news in WWF Wrestling is Wrestle Mania (pay-per-view March 29).

Stone Cold Steve Austin gave Mike Tyson a classic single-digit salute and started a fight weeks earlier. Now Tyson is the referee for the match between Stone Cold and The Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels. The insiders give the nod to Stone Cold, doubting that fans will see a fair fight.

Another storyline developed when Cain burned his brother and fellow grappler The Undertaker in his coffin, an impressive melee ensued. Well, the Undertaker is back and he's mad...

Close Encounter with the Sweaty Kind

David Wilson, Shelton freshman, attended the WCW Thunder match Feb. 19 at Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center. "It's fun entertainment," Wilson said of his encounter from among the crowd.

But when it comes to *close* encounters, the experience of two university students, Jason Matherson and Patrick Baldwin, cannot be matched.

They turned the headache of a flat tire into a propitious meeting with some of their favs.

Baldwin went to the Sheraton while Matherson played with his lug nuts. There Baldwin met up with Konan, Saturn, Riggs and Scott Hall. Baldwin said the ring professionals all treated him kindly, but it was former Atlanta Falcon Bill Goldberg who impressed them most (Matherson finally wised up and joined his friend in the hotel).

"You rule!" Baldwin told Goldberg.

"Thank you, brother," the former footballer replied. "I really appreciate it."

Baldwin has since shaved his

head in honor of his skin-headed hero.

Profile: Kevin Nash

He's crazy.

He's mean.

He's sexy.

He's 6'11", speaks his trash talk fluently and has requested that he be called "Big Sexy, The Giant Killer."

One awesome feat accomplished by Nash was his "jack-knife power bomb" of 7'4", 420-pound The Giant, son of the late-great Andre the Giant.

The Giant retaliated by using Nash's own move, the thoroughly illegal jack-knife power bomb, to injure Nash's back. Now they'll lay it on the line in Uncensored (March 15 on Pay-Per-View).

Insider's Info: *Psychosis* will soon switch to the NWO.

And that's the bottom line...

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Lt. Col. Charles Dryden was a big hit during his talk on Feb. 26 when he gave an interesting and emotional talk on his book A-Train, Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman. Here he signs one of his books for Patricia Richardson a mass communication student at Shelton State who thanked him for paving the way for her acceptance when she served in the military.



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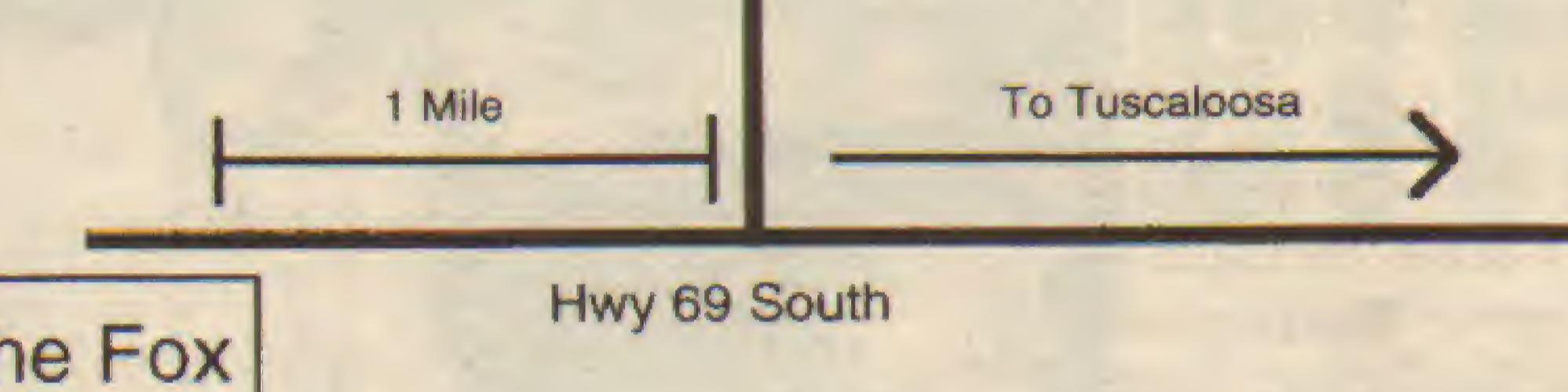
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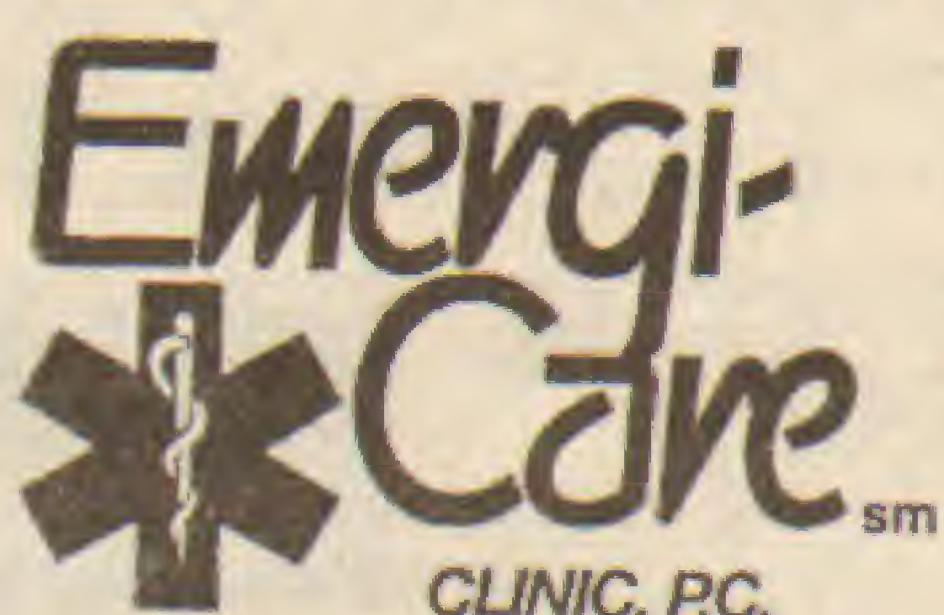
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Roberts reviews...

The Big Lebowski



By Brian Roberts

Calling a Coen brothers movie odd would be like saying that the Pope is a religious man. Known for their off-the-wall films, Joel and Ethan Coen have reached a new high in odd with *The Big Lebowski*.

Set during the gulf war, *The Big Lebowski* is the story of "The Dude," played by Jeff Bridges. The Dude is an unemployed alcoholic who spends most of his time bowling with his friends Walter (John Goodman) and Donny (Steve Buscemi- *Fargo* and *Con Air*).

The Dude is happy in his mundane life until he is thrown into a twisted kidnapping. The Dude's real name is Jeffrey Lebowski, the same as a local Los Angeles millionaire whose wife has been kidnapped. Having just met The Dude, the richer Lebowski asks The Dude to deliver the million dollar ransom for him.

Things get crazy when The Dude brings Walter along for the money drop, and Walter tries to keep the money.

The Coen brothers began their film-making career in 1984 with the drama *Blood Simple* and followed that with the comedy *Crimewave*. It was 1987 when they created the cult-classic *Raising Arizona* that they film world took notice of the brothers. They

share the writing duties on each film, while Ethan produces, and Joel directs. Their writing of the dark comedy *Fargo* earned the 1996 Oscar for best original screenplay. From the comedies *Barton Fink* and *The Hudsucker Proxy* to the drama *Miller's Crossing*, the Coens have given the industry uniqueness in film-making.

The Big Lebowski is wonderfully stylish and drop-dead hilarious. The plot itself is very intricate, but also at times down-right silly. Bridge's The Dude is a strangely likeable character whose reactions to the situations they are put in keep the laughs constant.

Two of the funniest scenes in the movie show hallucinations suffered by The Dude after being knocked unconscious. These scenes are indicative of the type of unique humor that the Coens have adopted as their style.

As is typical in the Coen comedies, the central character is responsible for making the film work, but the supporting characters are what control the humor of the film.

And the characters in *The Big Lebowski* are as strange as in any film that has been made this year. If you liked *Raising Arizona* and *Fargo*, then this is a film that you certainly want to see. If they were a little odd for you, *The Big Lebowski* will blow you away. It is currently showing at Regal 12 Cinemas daily at 1:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:40 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. It is rated R for language, violence, nudity, drugs, and sexuality.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Karen Phifer Brooks and Susan Phifer cork Library is now offering **workshops to help enhance students library skills**. There will be workshops for the basic library use, research techniques, literature research, the Internet and electronic resources, as well as business resources, and health and nursing sources.

There will be no charges for 30-40 minute workshops. Students may sign up for one workshop or as many as they wish. Space is limited, so students need to sign up as soon as possible at the library's check-out desk.

Faculty, staff, and students, a few minutes of your time and imagination could land you lunch for two at the Globe or dinner for two at Cypress Inn.

Shelton State needs a name for its soon-to-be installed computer network.

That's where you come in! If the name you suggest is chosen, you'll win free food.

To enter, pick up an entry blank at the library's check-out desk, the security desk in the Atrium, or at the Fredd Campus Library, fill it out, and return it in at the library.

Keep in mind the name you suggest must be able to be connected to other names for other parts of the network.

Contest ends March 27. Winners will be announced April 10.

Vocation Rehabilitation

Service here if you need them.

Kathy Hitt from Vocational Rehabilitation Services will be on campus Wednesday morning from 9-11:30.

She will be helping students with disabilities, who wish to start school, access funding. For those who are already enrolled, she will teach how to maintain the already existing funds.

Applications are now being accepted for two year scholarships to Athens State College in Athens, Alabama. This is for BS degree seeking students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics (including instrumentation physics or instrumentation technology). You can pick up applications in the Dean of Students Office, and the deadline is Friday, March 27, 1998.

Bio-Watch

“Henbit”

Lamium Amplexicaule

“Henbit” is a small member of the mint family. Originally native to Eurasia, henbit was introduced into this country as an ornamental garden plant. Being well suited for its new-found habitat, henbit has long since escaped cultivation, and readily grows wild just about anywhere, including your yard. The young leaves and stems are edible, and may be eaten raw as a minty additive to salad, or they may be ground up dried or fresh and used as a seasoning for a variety of dishes. Biology Instructor Chris Haynes displays a new “creature” every week for students to learn about the living world; drop by his office in the Faculty area to see what he is displaying this week.



Photo by Chris Bailey

Sodexho Puzzler

By: Chris Bailey & Ashley Arthur

Name: _____ Ph. # _____

Place your completed puzzler in the puzzler box in the big, green newspaper stand in the atrium. One correct entrant will receive a free Sodexho Food Court lunch.

D_k_ (topic of Bell Poll)

_o__s (Assistant to the President)

_e__t (edible plant)

_l_a_ (administrator-anchor)

_y__ (Biowatch reporter)

A_ (a type of student education program)

_a_e_ (front page reporter)

_o_c_ (Haynes's feature)

L_u_ (Latin word for Henbit)

n (Courier publisher)

E	D	R	G	H	I	W	E	G
H	C	O	L	E	M	A	N	N
A	B	H	E	N	B	I	T	T
Y	G	H	N	E	K	P	O	L
N	U	K	E	N	N	Y	B	U
E	R	T	I	P	M	K	E	D
S	E	R	E	K	R	A	B	A
A	D	N	L	A	M	I	U	M
S	R	E	G	D	O	R	A	L
E	B	I	O	W	A	T	C	H
H	E	G	R	I	L	A	D	E

Presented by the Sodexho Food Court off the Atrium at Shelton State

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Off-campus submissions are welcome
Send your completed puzzle to
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Mabel Harries, 93, who has been working with and funding the Spanish Club is sitting near Berta Codina, a native Cuban who left there with her family in 1965. She was invited to Shelton's Spanish Club to speak of her native country's struggles in daily life. Codina started out by saying, "There is nothing of anything in Cuba." She then talked about how life was different between Batista and Castro, dictators of Cuba, and between Cuba and America. Marilyn Terry, Spanish Instructor ended by saying, "The average American has no idea of the hardships of the Cuban life."



BUSINESS BUC\$

Never Have So Many Been Taken By So Few

Over the past few years an intense battle has been raging between the forces of good and evil. Once you know who the combatants are, you might ask, "So who are the good guys?" Well, that depends on your perspective.

The insurance industry and plaintiffs' attorneys have been dueling over tort reform and other legal issues dealing with insurance companies for years.

As a practicing CPA, I advise clients regarding their insurance needs and provide consultation to attorneys in litigation with insurance companies.

Early in my public accounting career I audited insurance companies and advised them on financial and accounting affairs. Accordingly, I have seen both sides of the coin. So I do not make the following statement lightly: The set of guidelines issued by the Alabama Insurance Department March 5, 1998 is one of the most egregious acts ever committed by a state agency whose primary responsibility is to protect consumers.



By Brian Sellers

add to an existing one:

1. Any dispute must be resolved by arbitration and not in a court of law
2. The result of arbitration are final and binding
3. The arbitrator gives an official decision after hearing their position of the parties
4. The insuree, by accepting the policy, agrees to waive the jury trial
5. The result from the arbitrator can't be reviewed
6. The company may have a pre-arbitration mediation which adds to the cost of the proceeding
7. The arbitrator can access the full cost against the policy holder

These guidelines essentially give carte blanche to insurance companies to conduct business without regard for the law or the people of Alabama. Moreover, this may com-

pel even the good companies to join the bad just to compete. Never have so many been taken for so much by so few.

If you are sure whether or not insurance companies need to be regulated, you need only to read or listen to the news which regularly contains stories reporting on abuses within insurance industry.

When you renew your insurance policy during the coming months, make sure you read it closely. By renewing you may be agreeing to waive your right to a jury trial and resolve any dispute through arbitration. If you think this is 'good law' you should let your elected representative know. If you believe insurance companies should have to follow the law and suffer consequences when they don't, then you should let them know.

If you have any question regarding insurance policies or other financial matters feel free to contact Brian Sellers at 391-2240 or e-mail him at B_sellers@msn.com.

Trivia Question: Why is Easter celebrated on a different date every year?

Contact Brian Sellers with the answer to be entered in the drawing for a free lunch and the semester prize of a bookstore certificate.

Answer to last issue's Business Buc\$ trivia question: According to one legend, Valentine the Priest secretly married third century sweethearts who wanted to avoid military service to the emperor Claudius II. Winner: Mary Hartley.

Coleman cont'd from pg. 6

ers live world and national news, called World View, at 5:30. Following that, at 6:30, he hosts a Community Affairs Talk Show.

Because NewsChannel 49 is strictly local, the footage from World View comes mainly from CNN feed and the AP, or Associated Press, wire service. In order for Channel 49 to use this footage, they became a CNN news affiliate, sort of like a subscription, for a fee, and CNN is their news source, as well as the AP wire service.

That broader world is calling Tuscaloosa-born Coleman. Eventually, he would like to settle out west, and be in the position to write

and produce documentaries. This, he believes, will be his concentration for his Master's degree, which he is now striving to achieve at the University of Alabama. "It's ironic," he says, "I'm the director of adult students, and I am also a student myself."

For now though, the community can look forward to using Philip Coleman's services as Adult Recruitment Director and/or as the Director of Cooperative Education. We also have the pleasure of watching him every night on NewsChannel 49.



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eyes of four unstable eight-year-olds, then you probably know someone who has.

South Park, a half-hour animated cartoon, sent Comedy Central's rating through the roof and has been wildly popular on campuses across the nation, with web sites and bulletin boards set up just for the show.

Hired by a Fox Network executive to produce an off-the-wall short Christmas video, Trey Parker and Matt Stone came up with the idea of *The Spirit of Christmas*.

The result was a hilarious five minute festival of vulgarity and violence, ending with a climactic fight between Jesus and Santa Claus.

Despite what some thought was a bizarre plot, the holiday bit became wildly popular, and on August 13, 1997, Comedy Central launched *South Park* a spin-off of the Christmas video.

The appeal of the show hasn't

escaped notice here on the University campus either, where a marathon showing of the first nine episodes was recently held at the Ferguson Center.

Students haven't been able to watch much of the show, though. Comcast Cable, which supplies service to the Campus area, doesn't carry Comedy Central on its lineup anymore.

General manager Scott Randall explains, "We are in the process of rebuilding our format. Over the course of the next year channels will be added, including Comedy Central. The students will probably get the channel during the second quarter of the process."

Right now the only way to see the show is by knowing someone with a satellite who can get it.

That sad reality is killing the students over at the university...



By Chris Mink

Prowling University Blvd., hanging out on the Strip, haunting the Quad...

"Oh my God, they killed Kenny!" So ends yet another installment of Comedy Central's *South Park*.

Odds are that if you haven't seen the cartoon, an unusual depiction of the world through the



Dropping in for a Chat Former Alabama First Lady Marsha Folsom (L) talks with Shelton's Coordinator of Planning Joyce Jolly and Assistant to the President Rick Rogers after holding a continuing education class on Feb. 26. Her subject was *Community by Design*. As she observed several times during the day, communication is vital to community health as is appreciation of diversity. Jolly said of Mrs. Folsom, "She is articulate and erudite, and she skirted around possible political pitfalls with charm and aplomb." Jolly also said that Folsom urged leaders to be like cockleburs—irritants—in order to execute change and improvement.

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